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#18**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

re PATENT APPLICATION of

**HAIR et al.**

Group Art Unit: 2873

Appln. No. 09/261,221

Examiner: E. Lester

Filed: March 3, 1999

Title: OPTICAL VEND-SENDING SYSTEM FOR CONTROL OF VENDING  
MACHINE

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DEC 5 - 2001

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

November 8, 2001

**AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111**Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated September 13, 2001, kindly enter the following Amendments and remarks.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please consider the following amended claims, the changes to which are indicated in the Appendix hereto.

1. (Three Times Amended) An optical vend-sensing system for control of a vending machine which has at least one mechanism arranged for initiating operation upon selection by a customer for vending an article into a vend space through which the article falls into a customer-accessible hopper, the vend space having a defined lateral width and a defined front-to-rear depth, said vend-sensing system comprising: